

GETTYSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

SUMMER SEASON INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

JUNE 6 – AUGUST 16, 2015

THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

Ranger programs that focus on the three days of this iconic Civil War battle, perfect for our first time visitors.

THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG- AN OVERVIEW (30 minutes) Want to understand the basics of the battle before you get out on the field? This is the program for you! Meet in the Ford Education Center inside the Museum and Visitor Center, daily at 9:00 a.m.

BATTLEFIELD IN A BOX (30 minutes) Become part of the battlefield in this interactive overview program! Join a National Park Ranger and build a map of the battlefield using props. Perfect for the first time visitor wanting a better understanding of the battle. Meet at Ranger Program Site 1, behind the Museum and Visitor Center, daily at 4:00 p.m.

THE FIRST DAY (1 hour) Why did the battle start at Gettysburg? How did the fighting on July 1 shape the rest of the battle? Find out on this program. Meet at the Eternal Light Peace Memorial, Auto Tour Stop 2, daily at 10:00 a.m.

THE SECOND DAY (1 hour) July 2 saw the heaviest fighting of the entire battle. Understand the key decisions that shaped the day and the actions that resulted. Meet at the Peach Orchard, daily at 2:00 p.m.

THE THIRD DAY & BEYOND: (1 hour) Learn what happened during "Pickett's Charge" on July 3, 1863 and discover what its outcome meant for the Union and Confederacy. Meet at the "Ranger Program" sign in the National Cemetery parking lot between Taneytown Road and Steinwehr Avenue. Daily at 4:00 p.m.

FIRST SHOTS ON McPHERSON'S RIDGE (1 hour) The Edward McPherson farm witnessed the opening shots of the Battle of Gettysburg, initiated between Union cavalry and Confederate infantry. How did the fighting on this simple farm shape and influence the strategy of the battle in the coming days? Join a ranger on this hour-long walk to discover the answers. Program begins at Auto Tour Stop 1. Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, at 11:30 a.m.

RANGER GUIDED BATTLEWALKS (2 hours or more) Want to experience the battlefield from the same vantage point as the men who fought here? Walk the fields and woods that were fought over a century and a half ago to get a closer look at the famous and not so famous places and people that shaped the battle. Check at the information desk for a complete schedule of daily topics and where to meet the park ranger. Water, insect repellent, a hat and proper foot gear are highly recommended. Daily at 3:30 p.m.

"KEY MOMENTS" PROGRAMS

These ranger-guided programs explore climatic moments and turning points during the three days of battle.

LITTLE ROUND TOP (1 hour) What made this small, rocky, hill crucial to the outcome of the battle and why has it become one of the most famous hills in America? Meet at the General Warren statue on the summit of the hill, Auto Tour Stop 8 to find out. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

DEVIL'S DEN (1 hour) More famous today for its unusual rock formations and stories of Confederate sharpshooters, Devil's Den was vitally important to its Union defenders on July 2, 1863. Meet at the parking lot on Sickles Avenue at Devil's Den, Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

CULP'S HILL (1 hour) Walk the wooded slopes of Culp's Hill on the right end of the Union line where the most sustained fighting of the battle took place on July 2 and 3. Meet at the Culp's Hill Tower on Slocum Avenue. Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday at 3:00 p.m.

CEMETERY HILL: THE KEY TO GETTYSBURG (1 hour) Before it became known as the site of the Soldiers' National Cemetery and President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Cemetery Hill figured prominently in all three days of combat at Gettysburg. Meet at the Baltimore Pike (Rt. 97) entrance to the National Cemetery. Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

EAST CAVALRY FIELD (1 hour) Visit the scene of one of the largest cavalry battles of the war, where Confederate General J.E.B Stuart was stopped by a Union cavalry force that included a new general named George Armstrong Custer. Meet at the Ranger Program sign at the parking area on Confederate Cavalry Avenue. Friday at 1:30 p.m.

SPANGLER'S SPRING (1 hour) Best known as the location of an alleged truce between Union and Confederate soldiers, the natural spring at the base of Culp's Hill changed hands multiple times during some of the most brutal combat of the entire battle. Join a Ranger to separate fact from fiction at Spangler's Spring, Auto Tour Stop 13, Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 10:30 a.m.

PICKETT'S CHARGE (90 minutes) Follow in the footsteps of the men who took part in the most famous infantry assault in American military history. Explore why the attack was made, why it failed, and what was the cost. Water, insect repellent, a hat, and proper foot gear are highly recommended. Meet at the Virginia Memorial, Auto Tour Stop 5, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

THE LIVING AND THE DEAD

Ranger programs that reveal the human cost and significance of the Battle of Gettysburg.

LINCOLN and THE SOLDIERS' NATIONAL CEMETERY (40 minutes) Explore the cost of the Battle of Gettysburg, and the meaning of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Meet at the Taneytown Road entrance to the National Cemetery, daily at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

CARE OF THE WOUNDED (1 hour) Over 27,000 soldiers were wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg. Learn how they were evacuated, treated, and how most of their lives were saved by the medical personnel of both armies. Meet at Ranger Program Site 2 behind the Museum and Visitor Center, daily at 3:00 p.m.

SUNSET ON CEMETERY RIDGE (1 hour) Join a Ranger to walk this historic ground at sunset and explore what happened when the battle ended and the clean-up and care for the killed, wounded and captured began. Hear compelling stories of courage and suffering, resiliency and memory. Meet at "Ranger Program Begins Here" sign in the National Cemetery Parking lot Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m.

LONG REMEMBERED (1 hour, 15 minutes) Explore the impact of the battle upon the Gettysburg community and walk in the footsteps of President Lincoln. This 75 minute program meets at the historic Lincoln Train Station on Carlisle Street near the Majestic Theater. Saturdays and Sundays at 6 p.m. (Metered parking in Gettysburg is free on Sundays.)

THE CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE

Programs that focus on the Civil War experience beyond the battlefield of Gettysburg.

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER (1 hour) Over 160,000 soldiers participated in the Battle of Gettysburg. Find out why they enlisted, why they fought, and what they endured during the four years of the American Civil War. Meet at Ranger Program Site 1 behind the Museum and Visitor Center, daily at 2:00 p.m.

CAMPFIRE AT PITZER WOODS (1 hour) Rangers present programs on a wide variety of topics on the Battle of Gettysburg and the American Civil War. Campfire programs are held nightly at the Park Amphitheater, near Auto Tour Stop 6, at 8:30 p.m.

VISIT TO THE PAST

Interactive living history programs that bring the Gettysburg story to life.

“CANNONEERS TO YOUR POST!” (30 minutes) On July 3rd, 1863 over two hundred Union and Confederate cannon opened fire in one of the largest artillery duels of the war. Join a National Park Service Living Historian and become part of a gun crew as you discover the role artillery played during the battle of Gettysburg. Meet at the Virginia Memorial, Auto Tour Stop 5, Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 2:00 p.m.

TRIALS AND TRIUMPHS: GETTYSBURG’S FARM FAMILIES (30 minutes) Discover the unforgettable story of the people who called Gettysburg home, as you explore their farms with a National Park Service Living Historian. Meet at the "Ranger Program" sign in the National Cemetery Parking Lot on the Taneytown Road, Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 1:00 p.m..

COURAGE ON TRIAL (1 hour) Only one Union officer was tried for cowardice during the battle of Gettysburg. Become part of the Court Martial, hear the evidence, and decide for yourself whether this soldier is innocent or guilty, in this recreation of an actual case. Meet at Ranger Program Site 2 behind the Museum and Visitor Center, Saturday at 1:00 p.m..

THE GEORGE SPANGLER FARM

Discover the history of the George Spangler Farm, the most well preserved field hospital site associated with the battle of Gettysburg. Site is only accessible via paid shuttle from the Museum and Visitor Center, Friday-Sunday.

THE GEORGE SPANGLER FAMILY AT WORK (30 minutes) Join National Park Service Living Historians demonstrating trades of the period and get a glimpse of civilian life at the farm. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 10:15 a.m.

MANNING THE GUNS: ARTILLERY AT THE SPANGLER FARM (30 minutes) Over 100 Union cannon occupied the fields surrounding the George Spangler Farm during the battle of Gettysburg. Join National Park Service Living Historians and discover the experiences of Civil War artillerists by becoming a member of a cannon crew at work. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

AN ARMY FIELD HOSPITAL: THE GEORGE SPANGLER FARM (30 minutes) Travel to the George Spangler Farm, the Union Army's 11th Corps field hospital, where medical care was provided for over 1,900 soldiers wounded in the Battle of Gettysburg.. Discover their story and the stories of the doctors and nurses that struggled to keep them alive. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 12:15 p.m.

THE LAST FULL MEASURE: THE DEAD AT THE SPANGLER FARM (30 minutes) In addition to a field hospital, the Spangler Farm became a massive burial ground for those who gave “the last full measure of devotion.” Explore the site of this field hospital cemetery and the story of those buried there. Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 1:15 p.m.

PROGRAMS ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG VISITORS

Children and families are encouraged to explore the battlefield through these special programs and activities.

JOIN THE ARMY! (1 hour) Children "enlist" in the army and learn something about what it meant to be a soldier in a Civil War regiment. This program is for children ages 5-13 only, and held outside of the Museum and Visitor Center. Sign up at the Visitor Center information desk. Daily at 11:00 a.m.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM This family-oriented activity booklet allows children (ages 5-13) to become Junior Rangers as they visit the park and museum. Ask for details and the program guide at the park information desk in the Visitor Center.

HANDS-ON HISTORY CART Play a 19th century parlor game, learn what soldiers did in their spare time, and dress up like kids who lived in the 1860's! All this and more at our Hands-On History Cart! Find the cart in the Museum and Visitor Center every day at 2:00 p.m.



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